

david glasner

From: Michael W Grunberger [mgru@loc.gov]
Sent: Thursday, July 06, 2000 5:18 PM
To: david glasner
Cc: drad@loc.gov
Subject: Order Numbers

David ...

Just a quick report on the three purchase orders that we promised to check because their dates fell within the JCR window.

PO 5112K, January 11, 1951: Hebrew books ordered from J. Biegeleisen dated 12/1/50 (we still buy books from Biegeleisen!)

PO 5275J, May 19, 1950: Hebrew books ordered from J. Biegeleisen dated 1/16/50

PO 0741J, March 20, 1950: Hebrew books ordered from Max Meisel dated 10/20/50

See you tomorrow,
Michael

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P6/(b)(6)

August 9, 2000

Mr. Ken Kloth
Executive Director
Presidential Advisory Commission on
Holocaust Assets in the U. S.
901 15th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ken,

With the cooperation of Michael Grunberger, the head of the Hebraic section at the Library of Congress, and with the hard work of the interns in your organization (especially David Glasner), we have finished about 85 to 90 percent of the review of the holdings in the LC. We included a very large number of items in our sample (indeed, in many places we took a complete census, others a one in two, and at the maximum, a one in ten sample)

It is my professional opinion that we have thus obviated any need to do a complete census.

The preliminary results are as follows:

- 1) We did a **complete census** of the "Rare" book cage. There were 190 shelves that contained 3,115 items/ books. Of these, only 20 were found to have one of the eight stamps that were identified as .
- 2) The rest of the shelves outside the cage were stratified and different selection ratios applied. Any shelf that was found to have any item with the Nazi "number on its' spine during a visual walkthrough was included with certainty and thus part of a second census, not included in a sample.
- 3) The tables below give the preliminary findings.

<u>Area/Type</u>	<u>Actual Number of Shelves Selected</u>	<u>Actual Number of Items/Books Examined</u>	<u>Actual Number of Items with Stamps</u>	<u>Projected Number of Items/Books</u>	<u>Projected Number of Items with Stamps</u>
Catalogued	382	10,627	135	103,543	1,107
Un-catalogued	213	8,767	304	15,648	474
Rare Book Cage	190	3,115	20	3,115	20
Periodicals	79	2,841	852	2,841	852
TOTALS	864	25,350	1,311	125,147	2,453

<u>Type of Stamp</u>	<u>Un-weighted Number</u>	<u>Weighted Number</u>
1	105	376
2	241	958
3	909	1021
4	3	3
5	56	113
6	5	7
7	5	7
8	14	41
Total	1,311	2,453

I trust that you will use these data as they are meant to be: as **PRELIMINARY** results only, and you will so label them. I do hope that your workload will free up enough person-power to finish the project within a few weeks.

I look forward to your comments.

Sincerely,

cc: Dr Michael Grunberger

Recommendation 23:

The Library of Congress should examine each Holocaust-era item in its Hebraica collection and identify and appropriately segregate those books that were looted from victims of the Holocaust. Books in the Library's possession that came from the JCR that are unidentifiable should remain in the Library's possession, their existence publicized, and appropriate recognition given to the fact that they were looted by the Nazis. Looted books that did not come from the JCR should be similarly identified, publicized and recognized. Consistent with Recommendation 22, the Library should also make reasonable attempts to identify the owners of these books or their heirs and return any books for which legitimate claims can be established.

- Between 1949 and 1952, the JCR distributed in the United States over 160,000 books, primarily in Hebrew or dealing with Jewish topics, that had belonged to holocaust victims and were classified as heirless assets. The Library of Congress was one of the designated recipients of these books. In addition, the Library of Congress Hebraica collection contains books bearing identification stamps indicating that they are possibly victims' assets; many of these books were not received through the JCR.
- The Commission, in cooperation with the Library staff, has now identified a number of volumes of historical, literary and/or religious value that came to the Library of Congress in several ways after having been looted by the Nazis and recovered by U.S. forces.

Arthur!

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6.04.27.23

MEMORANDUM

TO: Gene Sofer, Ken Klothen
FROM: David Glasner, Lisa Yavnai
DATE: July 18, 2000
RE: Status of Library of Congress survey

Initially, we were only going to survey the Uncataloged and Cataloged sections of the Hebraica Deck at the Library of Congress. During the course of our search, however, we have uncovered more sections that need to be examined for JCR books and other books that could have been looted in Europe.

Following is a list of the sections we hope to examine:

- Uncataloged
- Cataloged
- Rare books (cage)
- Periodicals
- Boxes of newspapers

At this point, we have finished the Uncataloged section and have nearly completed the Cataloged and Periodical sections.

We must also decide whether to examine the following sections:

- Storage
- Reading Room Reference
- Microforms

Because we have already sampled a large portion of the collection, it is advisable to make this survey as extensive as possible. In particular, the reading room and the storage area should be sampled. Microfilm is a lower priority, because some of the books on microfilm may not actually be at the library.

We suggest that all of the interns and other available staff conduct a concentrated effort during the first week of August (after most deadlines). Such an effort would give an accurate number of books from the JCR and Library of Congress Mission at the LC.

Findings:¹

As of Friday, July 14, we estimate that there are approximately 2000 books that have one of the 10 identifiable stamps on them (includes multiplication for sampling).

Of these 2000 books, the vast majority of them have JCR stamps on them, meaning that the Library acquired them through a legal transaction. Almost 100% of the periodicals, for example, came from the JCR. In total, we estimate that there are 1500 items with some type of JCR stamp on them.

There is also a significant number of books that have an ERR stamp on them. Although we do not know for sure how the library acquired these books, it is fair to assume that the Library of Congress Mission procured many of them. We do know that almost all of these books reached the LC in December of 1948. Approximately 500 of the books have a stamp with a Nazi eagle on them (stamp #5) and a few have stamp numbers 6, 10 or 9. Among these books are religious artifacts, such as *sifrei Torah* (Bibles), and secular items.

Several books have Offenbach Depot stamps on them (stamp # 7). However, many of these items have a JCR stamp, a National Library of Israel stamp or a similar type of marking above the Depot stamp. Attached to this memo is an example of such a book. *Der Zauberberg* ("The Magic Mountain") by Thomas Mann traveled from the Offenbach Depot to the Zeilsheim DP camp to the National Library of Israel and finally to the Library of Congress in 1958.

The majority of the periodicals are serial magazines that deal with socialist and communist topics, otherwise known as Soviet Yiddica. Conversely, we have found a greater variety of items in the Cataloged and Uncataloged sections. Included in these sections are religious artifacts, such as *mishaot* (books of Jewish law), as well as novels and science lesson books. So far, approximately 500 books fall outside of the Soviet Yiddica category.

Although a small number of the books have signs of identification on them, such as signatures or stamps, we cannot prove for certain who owned a book immediately prior to the war. At this point, therefore, all of the books we have found remain unidentifiable and heirless.

We would like to acknowledge the cooperation of Michael Grunberger with our staff. He has been most helpful and cooperative.

ATTACHMENTS

¹ At the writing of this memorandum, we do not have access to the survey forms. Therefore, all of the estimates are made purely from memory.

Status of LC Survey

ID	Description	Probability	Sampling*
U	Uncataloged	High	1:02
C	Cataloged	Medium	1:10
R	Rare Books Cage)	Medium	1:01
P	Periodicals	High	1:01
B	Boxes of newspapers	High	1:01
J	Current journals	Low	0:00
M	Microforms	Low	0:00
T	Book Trucks	Medium	1:01
B J	Reading Room Reference	Low	??
S	Storage (duplicates, minimum level, translations, ephemera, gifts, supplies, etc.)		??

*Sampling refers to the ratio of shelves we are surveying. For example, in the Cataloged section, we search one out of every ten shelves.

6,04,27,23

david glasner

From: Lisa Yavnai [lbendavid@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2000 4:03 PM
To: david glasner
Subject: Re: Current status

Dear David,

I could not open the attachment, but otherwise it looks great. I would add another section at the end saying that:

"Because we have sampled a large portion of the collection already, it seems that it would be advisable to make the sample as extensive as possible. We think that the best idea would be to organize all the interns and any other available staff for a concentrated effort on the first week of August 9 (after most of the deadlines). The most important areas to cover would be the reading room and the storage area. Microfilm is questionable because the books may not physically be at the Library. We feel that with such an effort we would be able to create a sample that would give as accurate number as possible of the books from the JCR and Library of Congress Mission at the LC.

In conclusion, we would also like to acknowledge the cooperation of Michael Grunberger with our staff. he has been most helpful and cooperative."

Please give me a call to tell me if you agree with this. Otherwise, please print it out as a memo and give it to Gene from both of us today (he asked for it by the end of the day). I will be here until 4:45pm.

Toda
Lisa

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<http://mail.yahoo.com/>